

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 16 and 17 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Claims 11-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors.

The Office Action rejects claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is moot since claims 11-15 have been canceled.

The Office Action rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,116,024 to Almond et al., hereafter Almond.

Claim 16 recites a computer readable medium having executable instructions stored thereon to perform a method of determining object relationships when checking an object into a source control system. Claim 16 recites two steps of determining whether an object to be checked in has a first derivation parent and, if not, a second derivation parent. The Examiner contends that Almond discloses both of the recited determining steps, citing column 3, lines 39-53. However, this citation does not describe any method whatsoever. This citation describes a policy strategy for allowing object instances to point to another object, but does not describe any method of checking an object in by performing the recited determining steps. Thus, the column 3 citation does not disclose either of the recited determining steps.

Claim 16 further recites two steps of adding a name and version of the first or second derivation parent to a list of object relationships. The Examiner contends that Almond discloses both of the recited determining steps, citing

column Fig. 9 and column 9, lines 57-63. Fig. 9 and the column 9 citation disclose a relational schema, but do not disclose a method that has the recited adding steps. For example, the column 9 citation describes a nodes table 910 that lists a node, an ID for its parent and a node name. However, there is no description of “adding a name and a version” of the first or second derivation parent as recited in the adding steps of claim 16. Thus, the column 9 citation does not disclose either of the recited adding steps.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Almond is erroneous and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Almond in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2001/0054042 to Watkins et al., hereafter Watkins.

This rejection is moot as to claims 11-15, which have been canceled.

This rejection is erroneous because the combination of Almond and Watkins lacks at least one element/step recited in claims 1-10 and 17.

Independent claim 1 further recites a source control system for a process control system and a processor in a process control system. Independent claims 5 and 17 each recite a method of automatic checkout for a source control system in a process control system. Neither Almond nor Watkins discloses a process control system. Therefore, independent claims 1, 5 and 17 are unobvious in view of the combination of Almond and Watkins.

Independent claim 1 recites a check-out function operable on the processor to use the stored information to determine whether any dependent objects exist for the object being checked out. The Examiner contends that

Almond discloses the recited check-out function, citing column 3, lines 39-53. However, this citation describes a policy strategy for allowing object instances to point to another object, but does not describe any check-out function that uses the policy to determine whether any dependent objects exist as claimed. Thus, the column 3 citation does not disclose the recited check-out function.

The recited check-out function, which Almond lacks, is not supplied by Watkins, which was cited for a different reason. Therefore, the combination of Almond and Watkins lacks the checkout function recited in independent claim 1.

Independent claims 5 and 17 further recite determining whether any dependent objects of the object being checked out exist based on the stored information. The Examiner contends that this step is disclosed by Almond, citing column 3, lines 39-53. However, this citation does not describe any method whatsoever. This citation describes a policy strategy for allowing object instances to point to another object, but does not describe any method of checking an object out by performing the recited determining step. Thus, the column 3 citation does not disclose the recited determining step. Therefore, Almond lacks the determining step.

The recited determining step, which Almond lacks, is not supplied by Watkins, which was cited for a different reason. Therefore, the combination of Almond and Watkins lacks the determining step recited in independent claims 5 and 17.

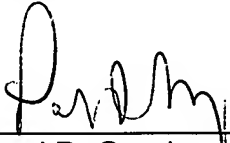
For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-10 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is erroneous and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action cites a number of patents that were not applied in the rejections of the claims. These patents have been reviewed, but are believed to be inapplicable to the claims.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 1-10, 16 and 17 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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